

## Senate Resolution 167

By: Senator Powell of the 23rd

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Ryan Klesko on the occasion of his retirement from  
2 Major League Baseball; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Ryan Klesko, All Star athlete and philanthropist, retired from the game of  
4 baseball in 2008; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Klesko displayed his stellar athletic ability and baseball talent at an early  
6 age with his selection for the United States Junior Olympic baseball team, representing the  
7 nation magnificently in Australia and taking the first step of his life-long career of  
8 international acclaim; and

9 WHEREAS, drafted by the Atlanta Braves in 1989, Mr. Klesko battled his way through the  
10 minor league system to make his debut in the majors in 1992; and

11 WHEREAS, in the Braves' 1995 World Series victory against the Cleveland Indians, Mr.  
12 Klesko hit a home run in all three road games, posted a stunning .875 slugging average, and  
13 was instrumental as the team's starting first baseman; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Klesko played a proud ten years with the Atlanta Braves organization,  
15 seven years with the San Diego Padres, and one year with the San Francisco Giants; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Klesko's community involvement and civic contributions are as impressive  
17 as his many athletic achievements, founding the charitable organization the Blue Ryno  
18 Foundation, which helps children affected by cancer and their families, and his dedicated  
19 service to the Make-A-Wish Foundation; and

20 WHEREAS, owner of RK Properties and Holdings, Mr. Klesko is active in marketing,  
21 developing, selling, creating conservation easements, and promoting land stewardship of  
22 ranch and farm land in Georgia; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Klesko created Big K Farm where field trips, teacher workshops, and  
24 legislative orientations are held to educate the public on the importance of land stewardship  
25 and highlight working forests of Georgia; and

26 WHEREAS, his great service to the principles of land conservation and farm investment with  
27 Big K Farms was honored with the farm's recognition as the 2006 Georgia Tree Farm of the  
28 Year; and he developed the first forestry carbon offset project to be accepted on the Georgia  
29 Carbon Registry; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Klesko has been united in love and marriage to his beautiful wife Kelly  
31 since 2007, and the couple has been blessed with a delightful son; and

32 WHEREAS, through his unwavering generosity, compassion, and dedication to helping his  
33 fellow man and his progressive, innovative, and ingenious approach to land stewardship, Mr.  
34 Klesko serves as an extraordinary role model for our youth and is a shining example to all.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
36 join in commending Mr. Ryan Klesko for his invaluable community involvement and thank  
37 him for his many contributions to Georgia.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Ryan Klesko.